

Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Called Meeting
June 21, 2005

Item 1. Call to Order:

On Tuesday, June 21, 2005, the Round Rock Historic Preservation Commission met in a regular called meeting in the Planning Conference Room located at 301 W. Bagdad, Suite 210. With a quorum present, Chairman Earl Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Lynn Smith, Billy Higgins, David Crutchfield and David Conrad (alternate). Also attending the meeting were Joelle Jordan, Senior Planner and Armida C. McClure, Planning Technician.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes: May 17, 2005

Following roll call, the minutes for the May 17, 2005 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Commission Smith moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2005 meeting. Commissioner Huggins seconded the motion.

Vote:	Ayes:	Earl Palmer Lynn Smith Billy Huggins David Crutchfield
	Noes:	None
	Non-Voting:	David Conrad
	Absent:	Gary Brown
	Abstain:	None
	Action:	Motion carried

Ms. Jordan welcomed the new Commissioners, Commissioner Billy Huggins and Commissioner David Crutchfield, to the Commission.

Item 3. New Business:

- 3.a. Consider a discussion on a letter submitted by Laura Transom concerning a proposed new monument at the Round Rock Cemetery to replace the sign that reads “slave cemetery”.**

Ms. Jordan has not spoken to Ms. Transon, but a letter submitted by her was brought to the meeting for discussion. No action will be needed. Chairman Palmer asked if there were any suggestions as to what to do about the sign mentioned in the letter. Commissioner Smith recognized the sensitivity of the issue, but felt it is part of our history. Commissioner Smith wondered about suggestions from Ms. Transom. Chairman Palmer stated that the Cemetery belongs to the Cemetery Association. The Association would need notification about any

changes. According to Chairman Palmer, the City maintains the cemetery grounds, but does not own it.

Ms. Jordan informed the Commission that Ms. Transom wants a monument instead of a sign. Commissioner Smith also agreed the letter was vague in suggesting how to change the sign or how to pay for it. Ms. Jordan stated that Ms. Transom proposed that fundraising could be done with supervision of the Commission.

Commissioner Smith suggested a letter of response to Ms. Transom to start the communication on the project. Chairman Palmer stated that he had no objection to a change, but that Ms. Transom should approach the Cemetery Association first because of their ownership. Ms. Jordan commented that the Association might have more information about the cemetery. Commissioner Smith suggested a letter to her stating that the Commission is not opposed to hearing Ms. Transom's suggestions on a more sensitive approach to the situation.

Chairman Palmer commented that the main point was the monument requested. Ms. Transom will have to raise the money needed for the project and the amount of research needed for the text on monument. The Commission needs to know what the monument would look like.

The Commission suggested that the subject would be a good one for the retreat.

No action taken

3.b. Consider an update on the status of the Baylor Memorial Park project.

Mr. Bob Brinkman wanted to bring the Commission up-to-date on the project. The proposed site is south of the railroad tracks and west of Mays. It is the proposed site for a detention pond. The size of the park would depend on how much land is needed for the detention pond. Ms. Jordan showed the Commission a proposed design done by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The memorial is for the Ten Baylor basketball players killed in the train accident back in 1927, while going to Austin for a game. There is still the question of how the park will be funded. Chairman Palmer spoke to David Kautz, Assistant City Manager, who suggested that the City should write to Baylor for discuss grants for the project. According to Chairman Palmer, Mr. Kautz stated that he would push the buttons to make things move. Therefore, Chairman Palmer told Mr. Kautz about February of 2007 being the 80 year anniversary of the accident. Ms. Jordan said that there is still some question about the size of the detention pond on the proposed site.

Ms. Jordan informed the Commission about the communication between former Commissioner Ellen Macaulay and a contact at Baylor University. Baylor wishes to enable the project to go forward in any way possible. It looks like the timing is good for the promotion of the project since Baylor is also working on a memorial.

Ms. Jordan commented that the estimated cost would be about \$75,000.00 based on the proposed design, not including the land which is already owned by the City. The project could include a marker at the approximate area of the accident that could be purchased from the Texas Historical Commission. Commissioner Crutchfield asked if there was a monument associated with the project. The Commission agreed that the memorial should be educational for the public.

No action was taken.

4. Old Business

4a. Consider a request by George Adams to demolish the remaining buildings at 504 N. Mays Street.

Former Commissioner Brinkman has taken digital photos and Commissioner Smith has taken black and white photos of the property. No measurements were taken of the property due to schedule conflicts, but Mr. Adams has stated that he is going to have the property surveyed before the demolition, and he will give the City a copy. He also provided the Commission with a couple of photos of the property.

Motion: Commissioner Smith moved to approve that the necessary information had been collected, and the City can move forward with the necessary paperwork for demolition of the property.

Commissioner Huggins seconded the motion.

Vote:	Ayes:	Earl Palmer
		Lynn Smith
		Billy Huggins
		David Crutchfield
	Noes:	None
	Non-Voting:	David Conrad
	Absent:	Gary Brown
	Abstain:	None
	Action:	Motion carried

4b. Consider a request by George Adams to remove the Historic Overlay Zoning District from 504 N. Mays Street.

Ms. Jordan informed the Commission that they need to decide whether it is appropriate to pursue removing the Historic Overlay now or whether it should be done later once the buildings are demolished. Chairman Palmer asked for a staff recommendation.

Ms. Jordan stated that Staff recommends that the Commission wait to pursue the demolition. Typically, the Commission does not remove the historic overlay zoning while the designated buildings are still on the site. However, if Mr. Adams wishes to and the Commission does not approve the removal, he can initiate the rezoning without the Commissions approval. Chairman Palmer asked if there was any discussion.

Ms. Jordan clarified that once the Commission’s recommendation happens, rezoning goes to the Planning and Zoning Commission for recommendation and then to the City Council, for adoption so, it is about a three-month process for the rezoning.

Chairman Palmer asked Mr. Adams how this was going to affect the sale of the property. Ms. Jordan reminded Mr. Adams that the process had been mentioned at the previous meeting attended by Mr. Adams. Ms. Jordan informed the Commission that the Commission could recommend removing the overlay since part of the property is no longer there. Removal of Historic Overlay with part of the site still standing has not been done in the past, but it is up to the Commission to decide whether the historic integrity of the site has been jeopardized with the removal of some of the buildings.

Chairman Palmer and Commission Smith both agreed that Mr. Adams had been led to believe that the historic overlay would be removed at this meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Huggins moved that the Commission approve the removal of the Historic Overlay. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Vote:	Ayes:	Earl Palmer
		Lynn Smith
		Billy Huggins
		David Crutchfield
	Noes:	None
	Non-Voting:	David Conrad

Absent:	Gary Brown
Abstain:	None
Action:	Motion carried

Commissioner Smith reminded Mr. Adams about bringing the copy of the survey to the City. Mr. Adams replied that he would bring it as soon as the survey is completed.

5. Planners Report and Commissioners Comments

- ❑ Carlin Grocery building was infested with a huge beehive and the building may require demolition.
- ❑ Annual Retreat meeting is set for August 16th
- ❑ If there are particular items to include for the retreat, please email them to Ms. Jordan by the beginning of August.
 - Update HPC goals
 - Historic Database update
 - Consider upcoming new projects
 - Discussion about markers downtown
 - Historic driving or walking tour brochure, CLG Grant applications for funding are due in July.
 - Appointment of new Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Discussion on rezoning portions of lots with historic zoning and implications to zoning when a new addition is added to a historic building or site.

6. Adjournment

Hearing no further discussion or comments, Chairman Palmer adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Armida C. McClure
Planner Technician